



March 5, 2007

H.R. 807 – Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 807 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX) on February 5, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 1047 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 5, 2007.

**Note: During the 109th Congress, Rep. Gohmert introduced identical legislation, Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act (H.R. 5692), which passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on September 27, 2006. The Senate received the bill, but took no action. The Senate considered a similar piece of legislation, Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act of 2005 (S. 242), which the Senate passed by unanimous consent on November 16, 2005. The House of Representatives received the bill, but no action was taken.*

Summary

H.R. 807 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial as a unit or units of the National Park System to the Space Shuttle Columbia on land in the State of Texas on which large debris from the Shuttle was recovered.

The legislation provides four areas for the study to review, but authority is given to the Secretary to recommend additional sites. The study must be completed within 3 years of enactment of this Act.

Background

The Space Shuttle Columbia re-entered the earth's atmosphere after a 16-day mission early in the morning on February 1, 2003, and broke up over the skies of Texas and Louisiana. All 7 astronauts aboard the flight lost their lives. The crew members of Columbia's final flight included: Rick Husband (commander), Willie McCool (pilot), Michael P. Anderson, Laurel B. Clark, David M. Brown, the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, and the first female astronaut of Indian birth, Kalpana Chawla.

Columbia recorded its first trip to space on April 2, 1981, and flew a total of 28 trips, spent 300.74 days in space, completed 4,808 orbits, and flew 125,204,911 miles in total throughout its distinguished career, including its final mission.

Cost

H.R. 807 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Note: Similar legislation introduced in the 109th Congress, Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act of 2005 (S. 242), received a cost estimate of approximately \$250,000 over the next three years.*

Staff Contact

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